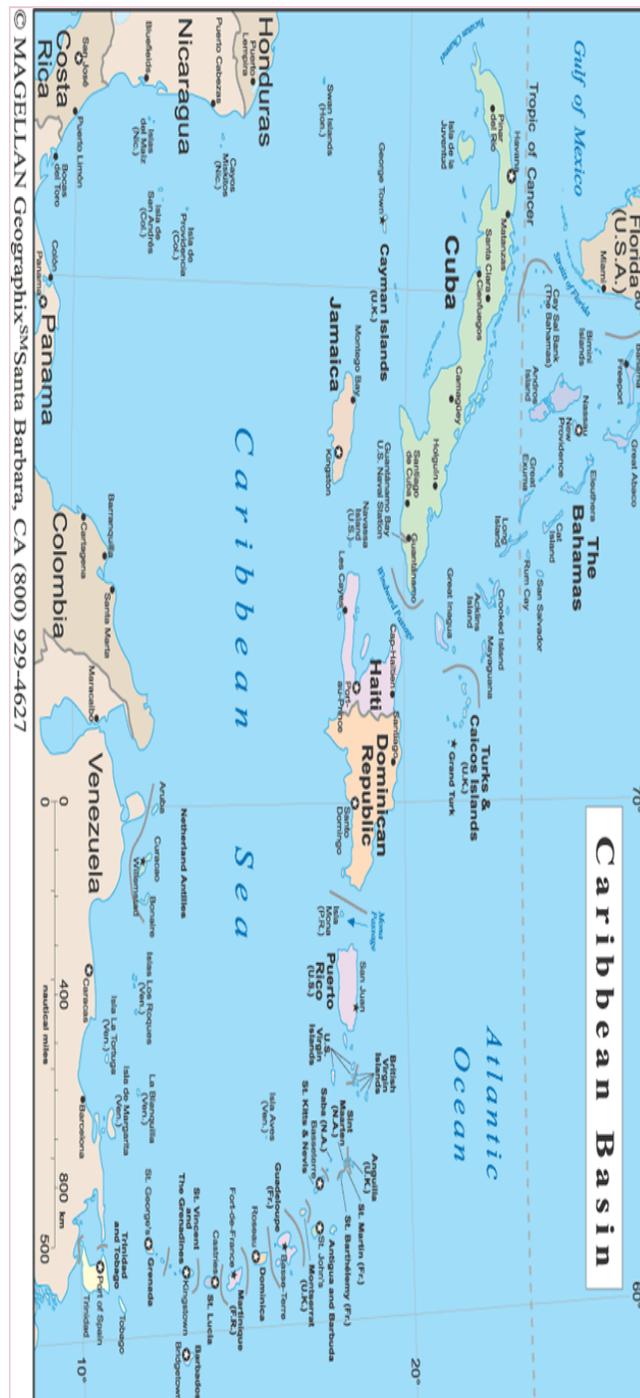


5 Options

- Get a friend/relative or sponsor to stand as guarantor
- Work and save for 1 year before leaving
- Use the 2+2 program at USM
- Secure a loan from a bank for the amount
- In the event of insufficient financial means:
 - Request an additional guarantee for the Government of St. Maarten

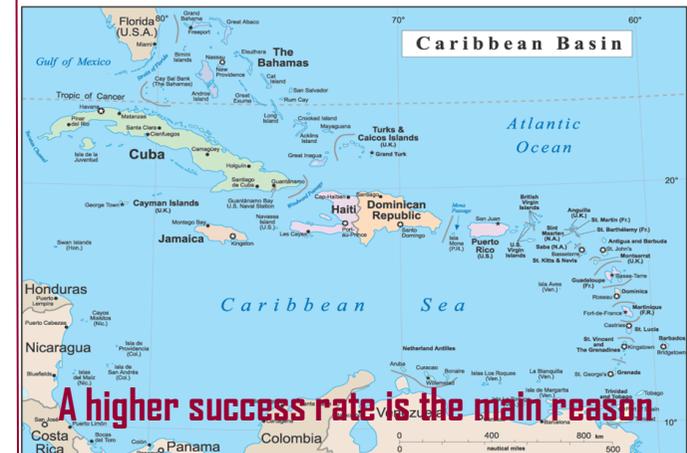
Choose to study in the region, a higher success rate is the main reason



Study Financing is a privilege, not a right

**Ministry of
Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Affairs
Division Study Financing**

**Promoting Studying
in the Region**



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Email : info@study-sxm.org

Telephone: 542-5497, 542-2363 or 542-3718

1 Objectives

- Increase the number of students pursuing vocational, higher and tertiary level education at regional institutions
- Reduce the cost for guidance, supervision and mentoring in the Netherlands
- Reduce the number of students studying in the Netherlands
- Reduce dropouts and frequent study changes
- Increase academic performance



Increase in the study financing return on investment

2 Definition of the region

- St. Maarten
- USA
- Canada
- Aruba, Curacao and Bonaire
- The Caribbean Islands
 - Barbados
 - Puerto Rico
 - Trinidad
 - St. Lucia
 - Dominican Republic
 - Etc.

3 Advantages of studying in the region

- Smoother transition to study and live abroad
- Closer to home
- Less integration problems due to language
- Better student care and guidance counseling provided by the schools
- Higher success rate
 - 90% of students complete their study in 5 years or less compared to 7 years in the Netherlands
- Less study changes
 - 20% of students changes their studies compared to 45% in the Netherlands
- Better academic performance
 - 80% of students maintain a GPA of 2.50 or higher compared to 45% in the Netherlands obtaining 45 ECTS
- Less dropouts
 - 15% of students dropped out compared to 40% in the Netherlands
- Lower study debt
 - NED: average study debt € 50000 or NAF 125000
 - Region: average NAF 80000
 - 20% discount for returning home
- More rewards for outstanding academic achievement
- 2 + 2 programs between USM, JWU, FAMU and Monroe College
- All degrees are equivalent degrees issued in the Netherlands
- Reduced- and instate tuition fees available at schools with MOU's with the Government of St. Maarten

- Better connection between secondary -and tertiary level education
- Extremely high exchange rate of the EURO
- Negative consequences of the changes in Dutch educational and study financing law
 - Stringent admittance requirements
 - Study checks
 - Binding study advices after 1 year
 - "Basisbeurs" or basis grant is becoming a 100% loan
- Most students studying in the Netherlands are pursuing international (English) degrees

4 Challenges

- Proper planning and preparation is required
- Stringent process and requirements to obtain US student VISA
 - Financial guarantee letter &
 - 6 months of bank statements
- Greater parental contribution required of approximately US\$ 5000.00 to 10000.00 annually dependent on students lifestyle
- Students are unable to gain experience through work after completion of their study

“Challenges strengthen the mind, as labor does the body.”